

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 14, 1999 LB 652

made by the counties and by the department, and I would ask for your support of AM0949. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the amendment. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'm not going to be able to speak directly to Senator Thompson's amendment because I've been doing a lot of work on portions of this bill, but along the way, I'm sure she will speak again and then I will determine whether or not I agree with her amendment. But at this point, I don't even know what it is. But I want to make something clear on this bill. The Judiciary Committee had a multitude of bills dealing with juvenile issues brought to it. It seemed that every position that was taken by this task force was reduced to a bill and it was introduced. By bringing so many bills, credibility for the task force and its efforts was lost. I am just being frank so that there is an understanding of what went on and the developmental discussions in the Judiciary Committee. I made my views crystal-clear in the committee. I told them I was going to make it clear on the floor. I've told my fellow committee members, I said, you're going to take these bills, some of them very controversial, some of them which cannot stand on their own, and you're going to lump them altogether in one bill and think you can get them passed in that manner. And I'm totally opposed to it, and they accepted that, my opposition. They didn't say it like this, Chambers, that's tough, but by their vote, that was their position, and I told them when you do it I am going to fight that bill and every element on the floor, and they accepted it. And I'm going to deliver on what I said. Those who have these various components or these bills that they all put together in one were willing to put them all in the same basket and risk them. And if that's the way they want to do business, that's for them to decide. But I'm going to go step by step through these committee amendments, and I'm going to dismantle it if that is what is necessary. I do not like this idea of task forces and others getting together and deciding that this is what we think ought to be done, then I, as a legislator, am supposed to go along with what they're talking about. One of the things they want to do is say that in this secure youth facility in Omaha, which, in fact, is a prison, it has razor wire fence, it's a prison, but they put young people in it.